

URBAN DISTRICT OF LYMM
-:-

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1971

Including the Report of the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Divisional Medical Office,
The Mount,
Church Street,
ALTRINCHAM.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report on the district for the year 1971.

Lymm continues to attract people to live here who are working in adjoining towns and because of this, the demand for housing has increased with the resultant rise in house values. One satisfactory result is that the older type houses are being acquired and being brought up to a high standard, in many instances with assistance of the 'grant aid' schemes.

The nature of the district also keeps the social and medical problems below what one would normally expect in an Urban area of the size of population of Lymm.

Reference to the Report will see once more there have been no unusual occurrences and statistics bear good comparison with the national average.

The section relative to environmental matters rather than health matters has been compiled by the Public Health Inspector and I would like to thank him and his staff for their co-operation during the year.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Committee Members of the Health and Slum Clearance Committee for the manner in which they have concerned themselves with the general welfare of the district.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. DAVIDSON-LAMB,

Medical Officer of Health.

1971

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Chairman : Mr. B.J. Thornton, J.P.
Vice-Chairman : Mr. R.E. Gregory
Mr. C.E. Bell
Mr. W.L. Boon (Chairman of the Health & Slum Clearance Committee)
Mr. J.F. Chappell
Mr. M. Coates
Mr. O. Davies, J.P.
Mr. D.R. Jackson
Mr. W.R. Jones
Mr. W.B. Keates
Mr. D.E. Moon
Mr. R.H. Mundy (Vice-Chairman of the Health & Slum Clearance Committee)

Staff of the Public Health Department

Dr. W. Davidson-Lamb, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.C.
Medical Officer of Health

Mr. R.T. Sucksmith, M.P.H.L.A., Cert. Inspector
of Meat and Other Foods,
Public Health Inspector

Mrs. I. Sidley, Clerk/Typist

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	4,242	acres
Height above sea level	-	40 ft.	(Statham)				
		195 ft.	(Jolly Thresher, Higher Lane)				
		80 ft.	(Lymm Village)				
Population (Registrar General estimate Mid. 1970						10,595	
Number of inhabited dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	3,533	
Average number of persons per dwelling	...	...	...	...	...	2.99	
Rateable Value of the District	...	...	...	...	...	£344,840	
Product of the penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£3,350	
General Rate	...	...	...	...	...	82p. in the £	

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Births</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>				
Live Births	-	109	112	221				
	- Legitimate	3	-	3				
	- Illegitimate							
Total	-	112	112	224				
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude)				21.2				
(corrected)				20.4				
BIRTH RATE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES				16.0				
<u>Birth Rates</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
LYMM	13.7	17.6	17.4	19.4	21.79	18.9	22.1	20.4
ENGLAND & WALES	16.3	19.4	16.0	17.7	16.9	16.3	16.0	16.0

At the beginning of the century Lymm had a high birth rate which dropped to quite a low level in the twenties and thirties and then rose steadily. The rise and fall of the birth rate shows a similar trend to the rates for England and Wales, but with the influx of younger couples to the area in the last few years, the birth rate has been slightly above the national rate.

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	-	1	1

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	4
Stillbirth rate for ENGLAND AND WALES	12

<u>Deaths of Infants</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 week	1	-	1
" 4 weeks	1	-	1
" 1 year	2	-	2

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	9
Infant Mortality Rate for ENGLAND AND WALES	17

Infant Mortality Rates

	<u>1936</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
LYMM	36	44.4	8.5	19.9	26.64	-	5	9
ENGLAND & WALES	59	43	26.9	19.0	18	18	17	17

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	49	48	97

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)	9.2
(corrected)	10.7

Death Rate for ENGLAND AND WALES	11.6
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<u>Death Rates</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
LYMM	10.7	11.7	11.7	11.93	13.22	12.4	11.6	10.7
ENGLAND & WALES	12.1	11.5	11.7	11.7	11.9	11.9	11.7	11.6

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN SEX AND AGE GROUPS

Cause	Sex	Total	Under 4 wks	4 wks to 1	1 + 5 + 15 + 25 + 35 + 45 + 55 + 65 + 75 +	AGE GROUPS	
						1	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Buccal Cavity etc.	F	1	-	-	-	1	1
- Stomach	M	1	1	1	1	1	1
- Intestine	M	2	2	1	1	1	1
- Lung & Bronchus	F	4	4	1	1	1	1
- Breast	F	1	1	1	1	1	1
- Uterus	M	1	1	1	1	1	1
- Prostate	M	3	3	1	1	1	1
- Neoplasm	M	2	1	1	1	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasm	M	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	M	1	1	1	1	1	1
Multiple Sclerosis	F	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	F	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	F	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	12	13	6	3	4	1
Other Forms of Heart Disease	F	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	F	5	5	1	1	1	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	1	1	1	1	1	1
Asthma	F	1	1	1	1	1	1
Intestinal Obstruction & Hernia	M	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	F	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals Carried forward	M	41	42	3	12	9	11
	F	17	22	4	14	11	11

Cause	Sex	Total	Under 4 wks	4 wks to 1	1 + 5 + 15 + 25 + 35 + 45 + 55 + 65 + 75 +	17 22
Totals brought forward						
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	41	—	—	—	—
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	F	42	—	—	—	—
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	F	2	—	—	—	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	—	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	M	2	—	—	—	—
Total all causes	F	49	1	1	1	17 23

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	25
Meningococcal Meningitis	1
Pulmonary T.B.	2
Whooping Cough	4
Salmonella Pneumonitus	1

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

General Hospital accommodation is provided in Altrincham and Warrington General Hospitals while a few cases of a special nature are admitted to hospitals in Manchester.

Infectious Diseases are usually accommodated in the Warrington Infectious Diseases Hospital.

LABORATORY SERVICES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Withington Hospital, Manchester, and specimens are collected daily from Altrincham or sent by post in suitable containers.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
LYMM.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Once more I have pleasure in presenting an annual Report this time for the period 1st January, 1971 to 31st December, 1971.

Most of the report is self-explanatory, but I would like to point out a steady improvement in the housing stock. There still continues to be sub-standard houses in that they lack amenities, but these are slowly being modified as owners become more aware of the grant system and houses are being modernised after purchase.

May I thank the Committee, and the Chairman in particular, for their assistance during the year and Mrs. I. Sidley my Clerk/Typist and Mr. J. Goulden, the Rodent Operative for the efficient manner in which they carry out their duties.

I am,

Yours obediently,

R. T. SUCKSMITH,

Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply for the district is under the control of the Warrington, Runcorn and District Water Board.

The supply is adequate and the results of frequent samples are supplied to the department.

The results of samples taken are as under:-

Total number of bacteriological samples	...	...	...	...	26
Samples free from Coliform bacteria	...	...	...	...	26
Samples free from faecal coli	...	...	...	...	26

The following is the latest chemical analysis of the water :-

Appearance	...	...	...	...	clear
Odour	...	...	...	...	nil
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	...	7.5
Colour (hazen units)	...	...	...	...	less than 5 parts per million
Total solids	...	...	...	...	408
Nitrogen as free & saline ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites	...	...	...	...	nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	...	...	...	...	2.0
Chlorides, as Cl	...	...	...	...	77
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	...	...	...	...	0.2
Total hardness	...	...	...	...	219
Temporary hardness	...	...	...	...	176
Permanent hardness	...	...	...	...	43
Alkalinity	...	...	...	...	176
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	nil (total residual)
Potassium, as K	...	...	...	...	3.2
Anionic synthetic detergents	...	...	...	...	-
Manganese, as Mn	...	...	...	...	less than 0.025
Poisonous metals	...	...	...	...	nil
Free carbon dioxide	...	...	...	...	12
Calcium, as Ca	...	...	...	...	46
Magnesium, as Mg	...	...	...	...	25
Chloride, as Cl	...	...	...	...	77

Sulphate, as SO ₄	...	...	...	...	...	...	55.2
Nitrate, as NO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.8
Carbonate, as CO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	...	105.6
Sodium, as Na	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Silica	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.0
Iron, as Fe	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01

The following probable mode of combination is based upon the analysis :-

	- parts per million -					
Calcium carbonate	115.0
Magnesium carbonate	51.2
Magnesium sulphate	52.0
Sodium sulphate	5.6
Sodium chloride	127.0
Sodium nitrate	12.0
Silica	1.0
Mineral solids (calculated)	363.8

FOOD INSPECTIONS

Upon examination the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered by the shopkeepers.

Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	...	42	lbs.
Raw Meats	...	...	...	...	...	113	lbs.
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	58	tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	299	"
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	18	"
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	242	"
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	8	"
Milk & Cream Products	...	...	...	...	...	22	"
Meats	...	...	...	...	...	38	"
Mustard Pickle	...	...	...	...	...	3	jars
Sandwich spread	...	...	...	...	...	2	"
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	...	...	23	tins
Jams	...	...	...	...	...	3	jars
Baby Foods	...	...	...	...	...	6	tins

The Cheshire County Council are the food authority for this area and I am indebted to Mr. W.K. Nattrass, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department, for the following details of samples taken during the year.

Name of sample	Number Obtained	Number of non-standard samples
Apple Pudding	1	
Buttered Fudge	1	
Butterscotch Flavoured Crunch	1	
Butter Drops, Rum Flavour	1	
Chocolate Slice	1	
Creamola Foam Crystals	1	
Custard	1	
Gravy Salt	1	
Jam - Mixed Fruit	1	
Lemonade Shandy	1	
Lemon Meringue Crunch	1	
Mackerel	1	
Margarine	1	
Milk	29	
Mustard - English	1	
Potato Mash Mix - Flavel	1	
Outline Low Fat Spread	1	
Sausages - Beef	2	
Sausage Rolls	1	
Sponge Mix	1	
Steak & Kidney Pudding	2	
Steak - Stewed in Gravy	2	
Steak & Vegetable in Gravy	1	
Tomato Juice	1	
Vitbe Bread	1	
	56	-

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no slaughterhouses operating within the area. All the butchers getting their meat from outside slaughterhouses.

MILK SUPPLY

There are no dairies in the area licensed by the County Council as pasteurisers.

There are within the area 15 distributors retailing Sterilised Milk; 7 retailing Pasteurised Milk; 10 retailing Ultra Heat Treated Milk and 1 retailing Untreated Milk.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

68 samples of milk were taken for examination by the Cheshire County Council, the details of results of the tests carried out were as follows:-

	<u>Methylene Blue Test</u>		<u>Phosphatase Test</u>		Total
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	2	-	-	-	2
T.T. Milk	5	1	-	-	6
Pasteurised Milk	39	3	2	-	44
Sterilised Milk	-	-	-	-	-
 Totals	 46	 4	 2	 -	 52

	<u>Tuberculosis</u>		<u>Turbidity Test</u>		Total
	Negative	Positive	Pass	Fail	
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	-	-	-	-	-
T.T. Milk	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised Milk	-	-	-	-	-
Sterilised Milk	-	-	16	-	16
 Totals	 -	 -	 16	 -	 16

MILK SUPPLIES - BRUCELLA ABORTUS

There is only one dairy herd in the district from which raw milk is sold to the public and during the year the County Council took samples relative to the above as shown in the table below:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Number</u>
	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Brucella</u>
		<u>Positive</u>
Bulk Samples	5	-
Dealer Samples (Herd Samples)	10	-
Individual Cow Samples	22	2
 Totals	 37	 2

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The following is a summary of the various food premises in the district :-

Grocers & General Provision Dealers	...	...	26
Butchers	...	...	8
Greengrocers and/or Fishmongers	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	1
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	5
Licensed Premises	...	...	15
Confectioners	...	...	2

ICE-CREAM

There are 29 premises in the area now registered for the sale of ice-cream. In all cases the ice-cream is pre-packed and sold under satisfactory conditions.

REFUSE COLLECTION

This service is carried out by the staff of the Surveyor's Department. Difficulties are experienced from time to time in meeting the public demand, but generally speaking this service is satisfactory.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The disposal of refuse is done by tipping in the Statham area on land which was originally the irrigation sewage works. The Rodent Operative, Mr. J. Goulden, generally keeps the tip under supervision and regular treatment for rodent infestation and control of flies is carried out.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The number of pail closets continues to decrease and there are now only three. It is hoped that in the near future these will also be converted and the collection service can then be dispensed with.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

During the year the new conveniences at the Dam were opened. These conveniences not only serve the residents of the area, but travellers on the A.56 and the numerous visitors to the Dam.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The modern Sewage Works under the management of Mr. B. Parsonage and the general supervision of the Surveyor, continues to work satisfactorily, but under pressure due to the expansion of the area.

This results in a problem of how to dispose of the sludge which is now being produced in quantities in excess of the facilities initially provided for this purpose.

CLEAN AIR

Lymm has no factories and what light industry there is in the area does not present any smoke problem. The change to central heating and gas and electric fires continues, all of which tends to make Lymm smoke free.

IMPROVEMENT TO DWELLINGS

During the year there were 10 applications received for Discretionary Grants, and 4 applications for Standard Grants.

HOUSING REPAIRS

Two Preliminary Notices and one Statutory Notice were served following complaints received from householders and this resulted in improvements as follows :-

Burst pipes	...	...	...	1
Broken W.C. seat	...	...	...	1
Accummulation of rubbish	...	...	...	1
Insanitary dwelling	...	...	...	1

RODENT CONTROL

For this service I have the assistance of a part-time rodent operative, Mr. J. Goulden. During the year treatment has been carried out at the undermentioned properties :-

Rats	...	...	...	...	Private dwellings	104
					Business Premises	38
Mice	...	...	...	...	Private dwellings	37
					Business Premises	12
Lymm U.D.C. Premises	...	...	...	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	3

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following is a list of the premises registered under this Act by the end of the year.

Class of premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year
Offices	-	14
Retail Shops	-	45
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	2
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens	-	16
Fuel storage depots	-	-

Number of people employed in the registered premises are as follows:-

Class of workplace	No. of persons employed Male	No. of persons employed and Female
Offices	73	
Retail Shops	183	
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	11	
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	131	
Fuel storage depots	-	
Total		398

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

During the year 23 inspections of factories and workplaces were made, as follows:-

Premises	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occup- iers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	8	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	36	21	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-Workers' premises)	2	-	-	-
Totals	46	23	-	-

There were no defects discovered at the time of the visits.

CARAVANS

There are no licensed caravan sites within the Urban Area.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACT, 1928 and 1936

There are 15 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit under the above legislation by the Council following my recommendations.

In this respect I would like to mention the ready co-operation of the Cheshire County Fire Brigade who on my request carry out inspections of all premises. A service which I find invaluable.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDING INSPECTOR'S VISITS

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Workplaces/Offices etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Stables & Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	183
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
Visits for purposes of Building Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Visits to Council Properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	1457
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Meat Inspection visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

